

# **News**

Macomb County  
Office of Public Affairs



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## **News Nuggets – Macomb County news highlights**

### **New positions added at Juvenile Justice Center**

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners approved a plan to add 25 long-term treatment beds at the Juvenile Justice Center so youth can receive better care closer to home.

The plan approved by the board on Thursday, March 23, involves hiring 14 youth specialists, two shift supervisors and two contractual therapists to staff a portion of the JJC that is built but not yet occupied because of ongoing construction. The board transferred \$1.26 million from the Child Care Fund to pay for the added positions and increased the JJC's budget by \$119,400 for additional operating costs.

The new program avoids the cost of housing Macomb County youth in programs elsewhere in the state, saving at least \$343,000 a year.

### **Board votes on flu shot plan**

The Macomb County Health Department will no longer distribute its flu vaccines at multiple, small community outreach clinics, but instead will hold large, multi-day flu outreach clinics at three sites in the northern, central and southern parts of the county.

The board voted to approve the plan Thursday, March 23, to ease problems caused by uncertain flu shot supplies.

Under the new system, the three clinics will be organized for efficient operation and well publicized to assure maximum participation. The clinics would not be scheduled until the department received its full allotment of vaccine.

County residents have been frustrated in recent years when delivery of flu shots were spotty because of manufacturing shortages.

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**Board endorses Senate Bill 372 regarding Detroit Water and Sewerage Department**

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners voted to endorse state Senate Bill 372, which aims to give the suburbs more representation on the board that oversees operations of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

The senate bill would require a city that owns or operates a water system that provides service to more than 20 percent of the state (which Detroit does) to establish an authority to provide oversight and control of the system, provide for appointments to the authority, establish requirements for rate alteration notices and limit rate increases to once a year.

This new authority described in the bill would replace the existing water board. The bill is awaiting the signature of Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

**Board votes to add new judge position**

Macomb County soon will have an additional Circuit Court judge to help alleviate the large caseloads now being handled by the 12 current judges.

Funds to support the new judgeship were approved by the county Board of Commissioners on Thursday, March 23. The additional judge is dependent on the state Legislature giving final approval to its plan authorizing the new position. According to the plan, the state would pay the new judge's salary, while the county would provide the courtroom space and support staff.

A vacant courtroom is available in the Macomb County Courthouse in Mount Clemens and costs for new staff would be offset by revenue increases from higher volume and more efficient handling of cases, according to Chief Judge Antonio Viviano.

**Mental Health Board appointments**

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners appointed four people to the Community Mental Health Board on Thursday, March 23.

Delphine Becker of Clinton Township, Brian Negovan of Macomb Township and county commissioners Joan Flynn (D-Warren) and Betty Slinde (D-Roseville) all were appointed to three-year terms expiring March 31, 2009. Their terms begin April 1.

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